

Message Text

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S E C R E T TOKYO 2981

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FOR HOLBROOKE
FROM SHOESMITH

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, JA
SUBJ: FUKUDA VISIT: GOJ PREPARATIONS

1. SO FAR AS I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, GOJ PREPARATIONS ON THIS END FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER SEEM TO BE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. APART FROM THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER PERSONALLY ATTACHES TO THIS FIRST MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE AT LEAST SEES PRIMARY IMPORTANCE OF THIS MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN A FIRST HAND, AUTHORITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF FUTURE U.S. POLICIES IN ASIA AS A WHOLE. THEY ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, OF SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MEETING AS A PRELUDE TO THE SUMMIT IN MAY AND OF THE URGENT NEED TO COORDINATE VIEWS AND POLICIES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, BUT CONCERN FOR FUTURE U.S. POLICIES IN ASIA APPEARS UPPERMOST IN THE MINDS OF THOSE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THIS VISIT.

2. IN A MEETING WITH DIRGEN AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU YAMAZAKI ON MARCH 3, HE OUTLINED FOR ME MOFA THINKING ON THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. (THE AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU HAS DONE A FIRST DRAFT WHICH WILL BE

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PRESENTED SHORTLY TO DEPUTY MINISTER ARITA. YAMAZAKI EXPLAINED THAT PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA HAS ASKED TO SEE THE DRAFT BEFORE IT IS PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT, WHICH WILL CAUSE SOME DELAY. HE EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD BE ABLE TO CABLE THE DRAFT NO LATER THAN MARCH 7.) AS DESCRIBED BY YAMAZAKI, THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WOULD CONTAIN A PREAMBLE, WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THE VALUES SHARED BY BOTH COUNTRIES, INCLUDING

A CONCERN FOR FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS. THE BODY OF THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD OPEN WITH A REFERENCE TO THE SITUATION IN ASIA, EMPHASIZING THE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE OF A CONTINUED ACTIVE U.S. PRESENCE. MENTION WOULD BE MADE OF THE INTERESTS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (POSSIBLY INCLUDING SOME REFERENCE TO ASEAN), IN THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, AND WITH REGARD TO THE KOREAN PENINSULA. WITH RESPECT TO KOREA, YAMAZAKI STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RECENT REPLIES TO DIET QUESTIONS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL HAD BEEN SHAPED WITH A VIEW AS TO HOW THIS ISSUE MIGHT BE HANDLED IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT FORMULA JAPAN WOULD PROPOSE, HE STATED THAT THE ESSENTIAL MEANING WOULD BE TO CONFIRM THAT JAPANESE INTERESTS IN THE SECURITY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA REMAINED "BASICALLY" AS REFLECTED IN THE NIXON-SATO 1969 COMMUNIQUE AND THE JOINT STATEMENT OF 1976 ON THE OCCASION OF MIKI'S VISIT. YAMAZAKI SAW THIS BEING FOLLOWED BY A REAFFIRMATION OF THE ASSURANCES GIVEN AT THE TIME OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT. YAMAZAKI REMARKED THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE COMMUNIQUE TO INCLUDE ANY GOJ COMMENT ON THOSE REASSURANCES. AS YAMAZAKI SEES IT, THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD THEN TAKE UP QUESTIONS RELATING TO U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATION WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY. REFERENCE ALSO WOULD BE MADE TO CONTINUED COOPERATION ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, BUT WITHOUT GETTING INTO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS. YAMAZAKI, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE IN THE COMMUNIQUE SOME POSITIVE STATEMENT ON U.S. COOPERATION IN JAPAN'S NUCLEAR-ENERGY PROGRAM, COUPLED WITH A REFERENCE TO U.S. UNDERSTANDING ON JAPAN'S CONCERNS.

3. I ASKED YAMAZAKI WHETHER HE FORESAW ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO THE VISIT AND HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT. I ASKED WHETHER

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HE EXPECTED CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA TO ACCOMPANY THE PRIME MINISTER. HE REPLIED SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY THAT SONODA IS PRESSING VERY HARD ON THIS AND I GATHERED THAT HE EXPECTS SONODA TO BE PRESENT.

SHOESMTH

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